

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A dampening device (10) for ball game rackets comprising a base body (16) made of foam material and a connector ing means (18, 24, 26) formed such that the dampening device (10) can be fixed to at least one longitudinal string (4) of a ball game racket without substantially coupling the strings with each other.
2. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to claim 1, which is configured such that ~~it~~ the dampening device can be fixed to two longitudinal strings (4) of the ~~a ball game~~ racket without substantially coupling the strings with each other.
3. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, which is configured such that ~~it~~ the dampening device can be fixed to four longitudinal strings (4) of the ~~a ball game~~ racket without substantially coupling the strings with each other.
4. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 3~~, wherein the base body (16) is elongate or tape-shaped.
5. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 4~~, wherein the connector ing means (18, 24, 26) is are provided on a side of the base body (16).
6. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 5~~, which is reusable in that the ~~due to a~~ connector ing means (18, 24, 26) which can be reopened.

7. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 6~~, wherein the connector ~~ing means~~ is formed as an adhesive layer (18) provided on the base body (16), ~~preferably as a releasable and/or repositionable adhesive layer.~~

8. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 7~~, wherein the connector ~~ing means~~ is formed as a mechanical closure (24, 26) ~~preferably in the form of a hook and loop closure.~~

9. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 8~~, wherein the base body (16) ~~for embracing the at least two longitudinal strings (4)~~ consists of one part.

10. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 8~~, wherein the base body (16) comprises ~~consists of several parts, in particular two~~ parts, and wherein the two ~~base body~~ parts (16-1, 16-2) can be fixed opposite each other in such a way that the at least one ~~two~~ longitudinal string[[s]] (4) ~~are~~ is enclosed ~~therebetween~~ the two parts.

11. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to claim 10, wherein a first base body part (16-1) comprises a first part (24) of the mechanical closure and a second base body part (16-2) comprises a second part (26) of the mechanical closure which are engageable with each other.

12. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the base body parts (16-1, 16-2) comprises an adhesive layer (18-1, 18-2) for a connection with the other base body part (16-2, 16-1).

13. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 5 and 8 to 10~~, wherein the mechanical closure extends essentially along the entire

length of the base body (16) of the base body parts (16-1, 16-2) and comprises essentially identical hook elements (24) ~~which~~ that are engageable with each other.

14. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 13~~, wherein the foam material of the base body (16) is made of open-cell or closed-cell foam.

15. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 14~~, wherein the foam material of the base body (16) has a bulk density between 10 and 1000 kg/m³, ~~preferably between 100 and 500 kg/m³~~.

16. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 15~~, wherein the foam material of the base body (16) has a thermal conductivity between 0.03 and 0.05 W/mK.

17. (currently amended) The dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 16~~, wherein the foam material of the base body (16) ~~is~~ comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polyurethane, urea formaldehyde, phenol formaldehyde, epoxy resin and silicone.

18. (currently amended) A ball game racket comprising at least one dampening device (10) according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 17~~, wherein the ball game racket has strings comprising longitudinal strings (4) and transverse strings (6) and wherein the dampening device (10) is fixed to at least two of the longitudinal strings (4) and embraces them relatively loosely without substantially coupling the strings with each other.

19. (currently amended) The ball game racket according to claim 18, wherein the dampening device (10) is fixed to the longitudinal strings (4) in an area outside the traverse strings (6).

20. (currently amended) The ball game racket according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~, wherein the dampening device (40) is fixed to the longitudinal strings (4) in an area between the heart portion (8) of the ~~ball game~~ racket and the transverse string (6*) ~~being~~ closest to the heart portion.

21. (currently amended) The ball game racket according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 18 to 20~~, wherein the dampening device (40) is provided in the area of the ~~longest~~ transverse strings (4) that are longest.

22. (currently amended) The ball game racket according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 18 to 24~~, wherein the dampening device (40) is fixed to at least two neighboring longitudinal strings (4) without substantially coupling ~~said~~ the two neighboring longitudinal strings with each other.

23. (currently amended) The ball game racket according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 18 to 22~~, wherein the dampening device (40) is fixed to four neighboring longitudinal strings (4) without substantially coupling ~~said~~ the four neighboring longitudinal strings with each other.

24. (currently amended) The ball game racket according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 18 to 23~~, wherein the dampening device (40) embraces the longitudinal strings (4) relatively loosely.

25. (new) The dampening device according to claim 7, wherein the adhesive layer is releasable, repositionable, or releasable and repositionable.

26. (new) The dampening device according to claim 8, wherein mechanical closure is a hook and loop closure.

27. (new) The dampening device according to claim 15, wherein the foam material of the base body has a bulk density between 100 and 500 kg/m³.